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CONFIDENTIAL

Acting Assistant Director/SI

Deputy Director/Intelligence

Date: 26 July 61

Date: JUL 26

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Dr. Jerome S. Tiesner
Chairman
The President's Science Advisory Committee
The White House
Washington 25, D. C.

27 JU

Dear Jerry:

I have examined with interest the report of your ad hoc panel on vulnerability of missile warheads to AICBM defense and have discussed this problem with Pete Scoville. We fully agree that this problem is an extremely critical one warranting priority attention, and I shall make every effort to provide an optimum intelligence contribution. *DET file E.R.*

In this connection, we discussed the problem in the United States Intelligence Board (USIB) meeting on 25 July. It was agreed that the Critical Collectives Problems Committee (CCPC) would make a review of all the existing and planned programs for the collection of intelligence on the AICBM problem as a priority matter. This group will also make recommendations to the U. S. Intelligence Board on any measures which might be instituted to improve or expedite this program. We have also asked the Guided Missiles and Astronautics Intelligence Committee (GMAIC) and the Scientific Intelligence Committee (SIC), in consultation with the Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee (JAEIC), to look at the intelligence research programs in this field to determine their adequacy and to see if there is any more definitive information available as a result of these studies. From time to time we may wish to consult with you or members of the PSAC in order to further improve our activities in the AICBM field.

NSC review(s) completed.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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This material contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, USC, Secs. 793 and 794. The transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

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Remarks:

Authority was given to OAD/SI on Monday, 24 July, to reproduce letter of 5 July from Dr. Wiesner.

Report, [redacted] cy 13, 20 June 61, is located at present in OSI for review of this subject.

ER - I kept O/DO/1, copy for info to set up a meeting. Will you please let me know when the DC has signed?

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Washington

5 July 1961

41-6054

Dear Allen:

I am forwarding for your information the attached report of an ad hoc panel, under the chairmanship of Dr. Wolfgang Panofsky, which I recently appointed to consider the problem of the vulnerability of missile warheads to AICBM defense. I consider the report to be a significant document that merits your attention. I want to draw your particular attention to recommendation number three on pages 8 - 9:

"3. A study should be made of potential Soviet AICBM systems that would exploit either the large kill distances or the low altitude precision intercept possible against Minuteman and Polaris. A major effort should be made to obtain intelligence on the specific technical characteristics, operational concepts, and timing of the Soviet AICBM program."

As a consequence to this report, I have been impressed that two critical areas require immediate attention. The effectiveness of our planned strategic systems should be evaluated in terms of possible Soviet AICBM systems that might be fundamentally different in concept from the Nike Zeus type of defense system. There should also be a new critical look at our own AICBM system to make sure that Nike Zeus, as presently conceived, does in fact represent the best defense concept against probable future Soviet missile developments.

I have sent copies of this report to Secretary McNamara and Dr. Brown and hope that it will prove useful in stimulating work on these problems within the Department of Defense. The intelligence community obviously has an important role in assisting the Department of Defense in these studies.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Jerome B. Wiesner

Enclosure

WH S&T Cont. No. TS-104-cy. 13

The Honorable Allen W. Dulles
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington 25, D. C.

WH S&T Cont. No. S-1376-1
Cy I, Series A

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61-6057//

26 July 1961

BRIEF FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: United States Intelligence Board Action on PSAC
Ad Hoc Panel Report
REFERENCE: Letter from Dr. Wiesner to Mr. Dulles, dated
dated 5 July 1961 enclosing Report, dated
20 June 1961 (White House S&T Control
No. TS 104, cy 13) [redacted]

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In accordance with the United States Intelligence Board
action yesterday, 25 July 1961, to review all existing and
planned programs in connection with the AICBM problem,
attached for your signature is a proposed letter to Dr. Wiesner
so that he may be knowledgeable of this USIB decision.

[redacted]
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Deputy Assistant Director

Enclosure:

Attached Proposed Letter

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